

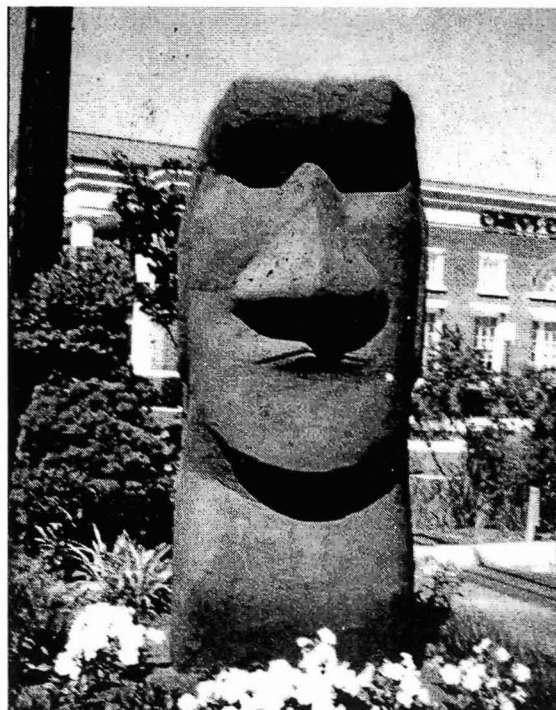
Moai Sightings

A rash of moai sightings has been reported to us in recent months. Some are so inscrutable they simply add to the 'mystery' of Easter Island, such as the word "moai" painted on the side of a silo in Texas. Others are more concrete examples of our handsome statues. Some are created from concrete, others from plastic.

Mickey Moai?

The Epcot (Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) section of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, has opened a "Millennium Village" for 15 months from 1 October 1999 to 1 January 2001. It features exhibits from over two dozen nations, one of which, Chile, has contributed a carved basalt *moai* of 10 tons, complete with topknot, eyes, and colourfully painted carvings on its back. Called the "Moai of Peace", it was created in 1991. The "ambassador" from Chile at the exhibit, a young lady dressed as a *huaso* or Chilean cowboy, informed me that it had previously been in Paris (presumably one of those displayed in 1997 -- see *RNJ* 11 (3), September, p. 137). Described as "Te Poki Moai", the Moai Child, it is "...a gift to the world from the people of Easter Island, symbolising peace and brotherhood". It even has its own website at <http://www.easterislandmoai.com>. Nearby, computer terminals at which visitors can learn more about Chile have seats made to look like blocks of Easter Island tuff, with pseudo-*Rongorongo* or rock art motifs in them.

Paul Bahn



This glowering 8½ foot moai was spotted in Silver Spring, Maryland, by Dr. Turner Camp. It sits next to the sidewalk and rumor has it that it was made by the former resident, a Chilean, who apparently was homesick for the island.



a



b

The Moai of Peace at Epcot; a) a partial front view from Don and Elaine Dvorak, and b) showing the painted back, from Paul Bahn.



Another Rapanuiphile, David Ross, spotted a *moai* at the entrance to a clothing-optional beach at Orient Bay, St. Martin, French West Indies. The establishment, which supplies food, drink, beach chairs and other equipment for sun-worshippers, is named Kon Tiki.

Although not exactly a *moai* "sighting", we have encountered a curiosity called "Nature Baby Hatchers" made (in China) for Healthy Planet Collectibles of Petaluma, California. On each little critter [kittens, puppies, dolphins, calves, etc.] emerging from an egg, there is a tag that reads: "On an expedition to the South Pacific, our artists explored the mysterious and primitive Easter Island and stumbled upon an old hidden lava tube. Deeply sealed inside they discovered an entire tropical ecosystem, with sparkling turquoise waters and lush emerald

forests teeming with tiny creatures... all...hatched from eggs! Our artists refused to disclose the exact location of this wondrous place but did bring back their startling discovery to share with the rest of the world." They could have at least had one egg with a moai breaking out. We would have bought one of those!



Don and Elaine Dvorak with a fake moai at Magic Carpet Miniature Golf and Arcade south of Reno airport. The eyes glow red at night.

Rapanuiphile Betsy Hamel spotted a couple of friendly moai in an Archie McPhee & Company catalogue. One is a rather stolid-looking moai head made from resin (\$15.95) or a plastic swivelling "Sun God" moai that sticks onto a dashboard and holds a pair of sunglasses (\$5.95).

Dr Ernst Tonsing of California has a "moai kavakava sighting". At the Pasadena Rose Bowl Swap Meet he did a 'double-take' at the sight of two ceramic figures displaying the familiar kavakava features from Rapa Nui. The two figures, one male, one female, had long ear lobes, arms down, prominent rib cages (painted purple), black chin beards, and staring eyes (red, outlined in black). As they are made of glazed white clay, Tonsing thinks they may be from Japan. He didn't mention if he bought them.

What's New in Polynesia

Fiji

CORAL BLEACHING, the result of the 1997-1998 El Niño southern oscillation, has severely impacted corals in the Indian Ocean where, in some areas, up to 95% of the reef building corals were killed. In the Pacific, extensive bleaching has occurred in the Great Barrier Reef and at Palau. The monitoring of reef health is an urgent issue. A coral reef monitoring node for Fiji,

Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Nauru is under the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. A meeting was held in the Philippines in October, funded by the governments of Sweden, France, USA and the IUCN-World Conservation Union, and chaired by Dr John McManus, principal scientist at ICLARM, in charge of ReefBase.

University of the South Pacific Bulletin, Vol. 32(36), October 1999

New Zealand

SAMOA'S MOST DISTINGUISHED TATTOOIST, Su'a Paulo Suluape, 49, was found dead on Thursday, 25 November 1999, in a house in Otara, South Auckland, the victim of a brutal murder. His head was "squeezed like an orange", and Police suspect two weapons had been used. There are at present no clues as to his killer(s) or to the motive. The world's tattooists, who had just convened in Auckland at the special invitation of Suluape for a world convention of tattooing, gathered to mourn one of the world's greatest traditional tattooists.

Tahiti

A PROTEST MARCH IN FAA'A, Tahiti, on 5 December was led by pro-independence leader, Oscar Temaru. It was timed to coincide with French President Gaston Flosse's official welcome for the Pacific Community annual conference. Flosse is the leader of the Conservative party; he was found guilty of corruption charges in a French court in Paris in November, but is appealing the court ruling.

THE COMMANDER OF FRENCH FORCES in French Polynesia announced in January that the Foreign Legion will be withdrawn and the military base at Hao Atoll will be closed in August of this year. The French military built a virtual city on Moruroa including a major port, an airstrip long enough for the Concorde, a hospital, housing, and offices. Suggestions were made that these facilities could be turned into luxury tourist accommodations, but nuclear pollution at the sites make them inappropriate for such use. Low-level radioactive waste was buried in old test shafts and covered with concrete. High-level radioactive waste was dumped into shafts on Moruroa. The ocean dumping of other radioactive concrete and rubble was a breach of the London Dumping Convention, which was signed by France in 1993.

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 15(1), 2000

The Pacific

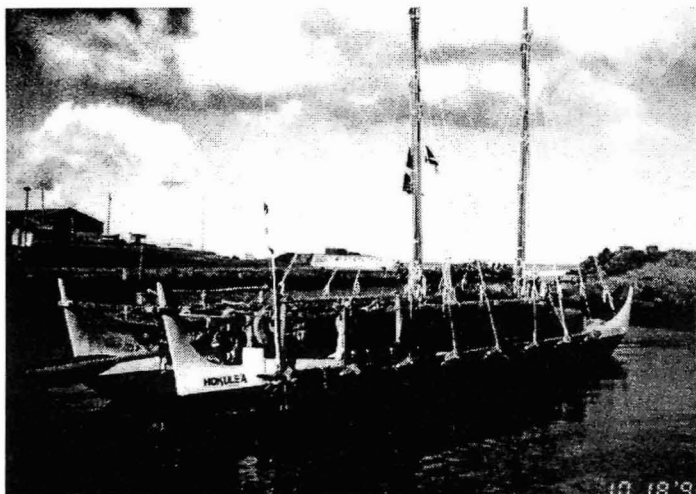
UNDETERRED BY PAST FAILURES of the *Matarangi* 'voyages' (see *RNJ* 11(1):43; 11(2):96 and 13(2):58), yet another group led by American Phil Buck has started off on a Chile-to-Easter Island voyage in a 52-foot reed boat named *Viracocha*. On 10 February, some 200 Arica citizens and tourists pushed and pulled on ropes but they were not able to move the raft (a problem that also occurred with the *Matarangi*; it is like trying to drag a sock filled with wet sand). Buck blamed the failure on a lack of support from the municipality which had supported the Muñoz raft. The mayor retorted that it was a 'cultural difference' and claimed Buck is 'only an adventurer.' At last

word, the boat with its 7-member crew finally set off from Arica, Chile. *La Viracocha* was towed out some 100 miles by a fishing boat, and at that point began its sea voyage.

El Mercurio de Valparaiso, 10 February 2000

What's New in Hangaroa

HÖKŪLE'A LANDS IN RAPA NUI



The *Hōkūle'a* at Hanga Piko's small harbor.

CEREMONIES TO WELCOME the *Hōkūle'a*, an open sea Polynesian-style canoe constructed in Hawai'i, began before dawn on 19th of October 1999 at 'Anakena. The waters of 'Anakena were blessed as the sun rose. At 10 a.m. the canoe sailed into the bay and folded its sails. Crowds of Rapa Nui, tourists, and Hawaiians who flew in for the occasion, greeted the *Hōkūle'a*. Dig-



The moai on Ahu Nau Nau were given eyes for the visit of the *Hōkūle'a*.

nitaries and performers in traditional dress stood on the beach and sang or chanted as the Hawaiians disembarked. Among those welcoming the *Hōkūle'a* was Dr Ben Finney from the University of Hawai'i. He explained that the name *Hōkūle'a* comes from the Hawaiian name for the star Arcturus, the steering star for Hawaiians, located at 20 degrees north latitude, the same

azimuth at which Hawai'i is located. Hawaiians would traditionally use Arcturus for navigation because it is directly overhead in Hawai'i.

The *Hōkūle'a* has sailed to most of the major island groups within Polynesia during the past 15 years. The navigator is Nainoa Thompson of Hawai'i. As a young man, Nainoa learned the art of navigation from one of the last of the open sea Micronesian navigators. He navigates using the stars and ocean swells to locate island groups, and has several apprentices who are striving to keep traditional navigation skills alive.

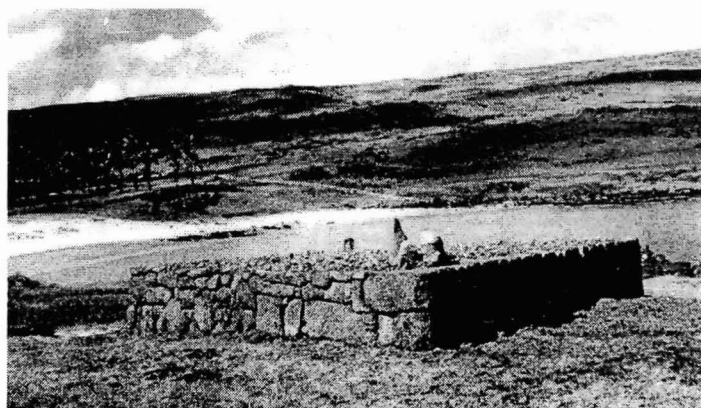
The visit to Rapa Nui is the seventh major voyage for Thompson and the *Hōkūle'a*. This trip included stops at the islands of the Marquesas, Mangareva and Pitcairn. The sailing



Hawaiians and Rapanui greet *Hōkūle'a* at 'Anakena beach.

canoe departed in November for Tahiti and Hawai'i after receiving a new crew to relieve the one that sailed from Mangareva.

The Hawaiians brought a rock and some water from their islands with them to Rapa Nui. These were presented to the Rapanui people. Alberto Hotus, Kiko Paté, Petero Edmunds and Jacobo Hey were among the dignitaries accepting the gifts. Hawaiian performing arts groups, dressed in red and gold, played gourd drums and sticks, sang and danced. Students from the



The newly-built triangular "ahu" at 'Anakena by islander Carlos Hucke. The *pohako* stones from Hawai'i are standing at one end of the triangle.

Kamehameha School were among the performers. Rapa Nui performers, dressed in traditional tapa cloth and feathers, welcomed their cousins from Hawai'i. Hawaiian and Rapanui orators spoke of brotherhood among the Polynesian people as the water from Hawai'i was poured onto the ramp of Ahu Nau Nau. The participants then moved to the triangular monument built on the east side of 'Anakena bay. This new monument represents the Polynesian triangle that now has been "closed" with the arrival of the *Hōkūle'a* to Rapa Nui. Food from the symbolic *umu* at the monument was offered to Hawaiian dignitaries, and this was followed by a *curanto* feast for all the participants at the conclusion of the ceremonies.

A replica of the *Hōkūle'a* and the story of its visit to Rapa Nui will soon be displayed in the Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastian Englert.

Joan A. Wozniak

As of press time, the *Hōkūle'a* had returned to Hawai'i via Tahiti, and will participate in the 25th anniversary of the canoe's first launching at Kane'ohe, O'ahu. The ease with which this remarkable voyage was made amazed us all; congratulations on a stunning achievement!

MAHANI TEAVE WILLIAMS, the talented Rapanui pianist, won the Grand Prize in the 15th Claudio Arrau International Piano Contest in Chile. Until recently, this competition included young people up to 16 years old. But this year they raised the gate to 21 years, and so Mahani, aged 16, was competing with older boys and girls -- and she WON! Tall, thin, with long black hair and dressed in form-fitting black, she played impeccably and impressed the audience immensely, receiving thunderous applause. Mahani goes to France to compete next year. Meanwhile her family is searching for an angel to buy her a grand piano. Congratulations, Mahani!

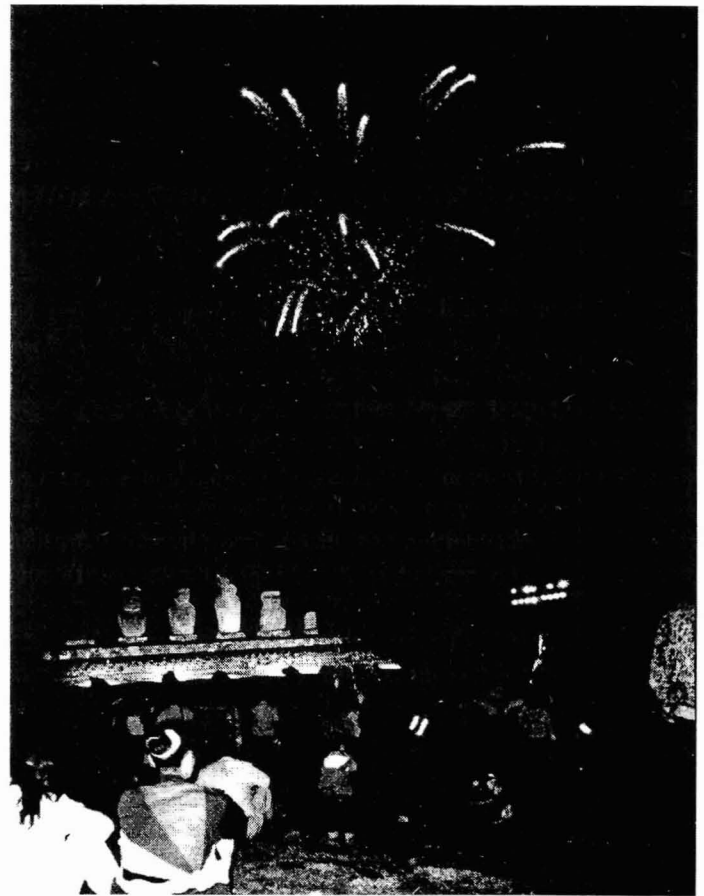
FERTILITY CEREMONY OPENS BBC'S NEW YEAR

This eye-popping notice was sent to us by Paul Bahn who spotted it in *The London Times* (Nov 18, 1999). This so-called "ancient" ceremony, dating from a couple of months ago, neither is nor ever was an "annual New Year's Eve event". However, the item below was put out to the press, presumably to titillate folks into getting up early to see it for themselves. (If they expected to see virgins and naked men, they were disappointed).

The notice said, "Live coverage of seven Easter Island virgins entering a cave with a naked man and later emerging 'married' is set to form the highpoint to the BBC's millennium night television coverage. The BBC will film the 'ancient fertility ceremony' held on the remote South Pacific island during its 28-hour broadcast of celebrations from around the globe." But the corporation is concerned that viewers might feel it has strayed onto salacious territory. A BBC spokesman said: "There is a ceremony involving virgins and a naked man, but there will be a studio audience with children, so we have to be careful about what we show." The ceremony, said to be an 'annual New Year's Eve event on Easter Island,' appeared at 7 am in London, and jolted bleary-eyed revellers from their slumbers. The BBC said it '...could not commit to showing the ritual in full because

it will clash with other events such as the first daybreak across Europe."

THE REAL STORY: Those of us who were at ground zero (Easter Island) at midnight to greet the millennium failed to see any virgins entering a cave, nor did we spot any naked men...although some guys were rather scantily dressed. But aside from the media hype, and the lack of apparent virgins, the millennium celebration was great. Floodlights illuminated the *ahu* at Tahai and dancers performed in front of the ancient shrine. The performance included islanders with torches who capered behind the statues, and then joined in with the dancing in front of the *ahu*. At midnight, a huge fireworks show began, with rockets being shot off from both sides of the site. They arched over the crowd and exploded overhead while debris fell on the assembled masses. Smoke enveloped the dancers, leading to worry about their all being asphyxiated. A 'waterfall' display illuminated the end of the boat ramp and more smoke billowed out behind the statues. The finale was a huge burst that lit up skies. This was the most impressive set of fireworks seen by many of us, particularly as we didn't look out to see them, but viewed them up front and very personally as they exploded directly overhead. All this was televised by Chilean TV (the source for the BBC TV program). The dancing and music went on for hours after, and eventually the party moved into the local disco where it was



Fireworks burst over Tahai to greet the new millennium.



A new swimming area has been created near Hangaroa, just north of the caleta. This man-made enclosed bay has been developed as a picnic and beach area, with palm trees and bathrooms, and decorated with sculptures made by local artists.



View of the park area looking south. Newly planted palms add a tropical touch. A modern statue is in the foreground.

still going on at eight the next morning.

The event at Tahai was in doubt for a time as members of the Huckle family tried to prevent the celebration, although this is not their traditional family territory. The *municipalidad* negotiated, and so the event proceeded. However, members of that family were stationed at the far end of the site of Tahai with *reimiro* flags flying. One put the Chilean flag below the *reimiro* flag, but apparently the *carabineros* failed to notice it.

Not all who came to the island for the millennium celebration attended the fireworks show. At least one group of 17 tourists was escorted up to the slopes of Maunga Terevaka by their somewhat befuddled guide. There they formed a circle and held hands in order to feel "vibrations" at midnight.

Even *Time Magazine* got into the act. An essay by Pico Iyer appeared in the January 1, 2000 issue (Page 124), titled "Watching a new age dawn in the company of Easter Island's 'living faces.'" Iyer wrote:

"...Easter Island offers what humanity has always relied on: petroglyphs and taboos and ways of peopling the dark....Winds from Antarctica roar over broken stone heads and toppled statues in the bare earth....You look at the statues in the early light, and they seem to ask how much a 'New Year' means a new you. What ever is deepest in us....is what doesn't change...."



A modern statue by a local artist sits near the entry to the water. It represents a Polynesian in a canoe. The ship in the background is a fuel tanker, awaiting the arrival of two cruise ships that require refueling.



a



b

Several sites now have small snack stands that cater to tourists, selling a few artifacts plus cold drinks. The one in photograph a) shows the kiosk at Ana Kai Tangata. Also new on the island is a version of the ice cream wagon: a portable stand that sells cold drinks and ice cream. The one in photograph b) is parked near the soccer field.

LIVESTOCK PROBLEMS: Visitors thrill at the sight of a galloping herd of horses dramatically racing across the landscape of Rapa Nui. But the reality is something else. The herds of animals that roam freely over the landscape are a continuing problem. According to Mayor Petero Edmunds, in 1976, the island had 16,000 horses.

Today there are approximately 4,000 range animals (cattle and horses) on the island--more animals than people--and more animals than the island can adequately feed. A scarcity of water is a persistent issue. However, no one wants to cut down their own herd. One islander with whom this was discussed admitted to having more than 50 horses. He uses two for plowing, and two others for riding. The rest are just 'out there', eating and reproducing. When asked about the utility of so many animals, he just shrugged. What is at stake here is *status*. One who has 50 horses has more status than one with 5 horses. Never mind whether there is any use for all those animals. Many horses suffer (and some die) from eating an introduced lupine, and they also are infected with intestinal parasites, as reported in *RNJ* for June 1999:59. And then there is the problem with cattle. The large herds of cattle eat their way through the landscape, breaking down fences to reach the scarce grass, and trampling over the archaeological sites. Some are slaughtered for consumption, but not enough to keep the numbers under control (meat, cheese and milk are flown to the island from mainland Chile). Islanders with cattle refuse to limit the numbers of animals because they represent status. And so it goes. Feed for animals is not imported to the island due to the cost of shipping, so in a lean time when there is little grass and water available, the animals resemble walking bags of bones. The island government wants to bring down the numbers of cattle from 2,400 to 600, but it is hard to convince islanders to reduce their herds. There seems not to be an immediate solution to this problem which likely hinges on education plus some curtailment enforced by the island government.

SOME STATISTICS ABOUT RAPA NUI, as we enter the new millennium.

- 3600 people living on the island year-round
- 21,000 tourists in 1998 (the 1999 figures are not in yet).
- 60 taxi cabs (and more coming)
- 21 restaurants in Hangaroa.
- 46 hotels and residencials in Hangaroa
- 1,050 beds available for tourists
- 1,400 cars on the island

The more than 20,000 tourists who visited in 1998 left eight million dollars on the island, spent on food and souvenirs (not including airfare and hotel expenses). Most tourists are from Chile, then Germany and France. North Americans came in fourth. The island has the highest proportion of tourists to residents in Polynesia and ranks second in per capita income from tourism in Pacific. Four planes come to the island each week from Santiago: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday --so that's 400 people per week from Chile. In the summer months, they add two more planes on Tuesday and Thursday, making six planes a week. Three planes come in from Tahiti each week; of the passengers, about 30 - 35 are tourists. A study



The new *mercado* is now completed, and it is a huge improvement over the old leaky and dark corrugated metal structure. A paved walkway leads into a light and airy building, with an interior courtyard. Local artists have their carvings, *pareu*, shell necklaces, etc., displayed for sale.

is underway to explore the possibility of expanding the airport terminal.

We hear that a new 50 room hotel is planned for the village, just north of the Hangaroa Hotel. Plans were to make it multistory, but that idea was voted down. At this time, the highest structure on the island is the control tower at the airport.

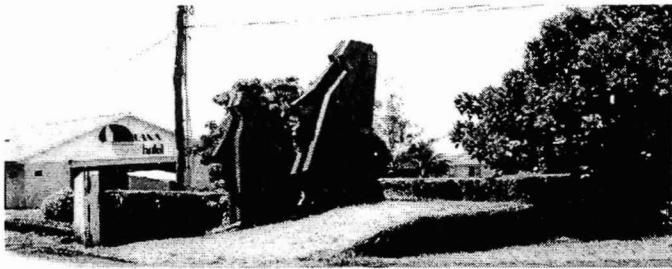
TAPATI FESTIVAL FALL-OUT

AS THE RESULT OF THE TAPATI queen contest, a huge uproar has erupted and lawsuits are pending. In a closely contested race, Carolina Edwards Rapu was declared the winner by 44 points (out of a total of 23,200). The supporters of Sabrina Atan Riro-roko questioned the count, which was re-done six times. At 8 pm Carolina was officially notified that she had won and went home to dress for the final ceremony scheduled for that evening. But at 10 p.m., the mayor announced that Carolina had lost by 15 points, without further explanation. Fights broke out and things got ugly. The contest is now being fought in court.

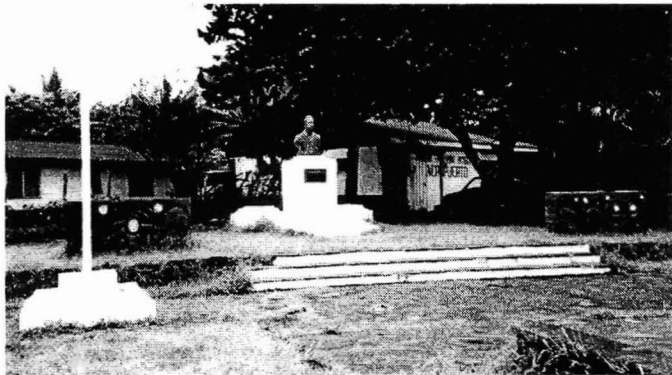
A PLEA FOR HELP

THE RAPA NUI NATIONAL PARK, managed by CONAF, has been requested to take land from within its boundaries and give it to islanders for farmland. Since the National Park was established to protect the natural and archaeological resources of the island, removal of land from within the National Park may constitute an irreparable loss of Rapa Nui's unique archaeological and cultural heritage, as recognized by being inscribed on the World Heritage List. The loss of National Park land may ultimately affect the future of the Rapanui since the major economic resource of the island is tourism.

Another 1500 hectares has been promised to islanders, plus another 200 hectares are needed for new roads. This land could come from outside the National Park, from the *Fundo Vaitea*, now administered by SASIPA (Society for Agriculture and Services for Easter Island). The President of the Director's Board of SASIPA is in agreement that the land should come from it, but others on the island and the mainland insist that the land be taken from the National Park, and specifically on the slopes of Rano Kau (opposite 'Orongo).



The Hotel Iorana has expanded, and it now sports some modern *moai* heads that flank the entry to the hotel. Two stylized heads are on each side of the entry driveway.



The base and background of the statue of Policarpo Toro that sits in the small corner park across from the school and municipal offices has been changed. It formerly had a large white wall behind it, to set off the statue base and the statue itself. The wall was removed as young islanders were congregating behind the wall to smoke pot, etc.



The main street in Hangaroa is looking good. The sidewalks and streets are paved, trees and flowers planted. The downside: now there are traffic jams. The island currently has sixty taxi cabs, with more expected on the supply ship. Local housewives have discovered a new use for taxis. They call, requesting a kilo of bread to be brought from the bakery, and the taxi drivers pick it up and deliver it.



A new wood tabernacle now sits to the left of the sanctuary in Hangaroa's church. It was commissioned by a Rapa Nui resident of Pamata'i and carved in Tahiti by a Marquesan artist. It is decorated with designs of plants, such as breadfruit, and a Marquesan cross on the door.

The aim of the Commission of Development of Easter Island (CDEI) is to restore the island's land to the natives. Governor Jacobo Hey explained: "...modernity has surpassed the yearning for land, as well as history of the tribal divisions carried out by Polynesian settlers some 1,500 years ago..." History also records that Chile registered the island's 16,660 hectares as

treasury land in 1933, during a judicial process that began in 1916 to prevent a Chilean-English company (Williamson & Balfour) from consolidating its domain over territories usurped by a French colonist, Dutrou-Bornier. Today, through the Indigenous Law, the Chilean State recognizes that private property in the island belongs to the Rapanui people. The law prohibits the sale of land to Chileans of continental origin and to foreigners.

Demand for land increased following the news that the Commission would request release of another 2000 hectares. That is despite criticism that there is a "...lack of adequate policy of protection of hundreds of archaeological sites placed in privatized lands; and an excessive surface of land is given without considering how the land is to be used."

The only treasury land left for private farmers is the cattle ranch at Vaitea (4500 hectares) and that is administered by the state-owned SASIPA Ltd., which also administers water, electricity, and local port

services. The remaining land is in the Rapa Nui National Park. An Elder Council's cattle project occupies more than 1000 hectares (1hectare = 2.47 acres). Also, cattle from SASIPA and private individuals run loose in the Park, forcing CONAF to protect each archaeological site with low stone walls, thus detracting from the sites' magnificence. SASIPA claims that they are reducing the size of their herds of cattle, but the private cattle owners want the pasture lands at Poike for their animals.

At last word, *parcelas* for islanders will be carved out of the National Park land at Maunga Orito (the ancient obsidian quarry), Roiho, the east half of Poike, and the area between Rano Raraku and La Pérouse area. No impact studies have been done in these areas. This is unproductive, rocky land, but the good land at Vaitea is being held back, apparently for the projected new hotel and golf course (see article below).

GOLF COURSE AT VAITEA?

ARCHAEOLOGIST JOSÉ MIGUEL RAMÍREZ, former administrator of the National Park (who was relieved of his position due to his protests against the taking of Park lands), stated that the Commission requested another 1,000 hectares from the National Park to give to islanders for farming. At the same time, the Commission intends to reserve the lands at Vaitea for Sasipa's mega-tourist project, including the island's first golf course. The Vaitea 5-star tourist hotel project faces obstacles for it is feared that such a project would hurt the small local hotels in the village of Hangaroa and adversely affect the island's water supply. If the land is used for a hotel complex, then it will not be available to be distributed to islanders for farmland. And there lies the problem: there is no other land except that in the National Park.

Te Rapa Nui, the Gazette of Easter Island, added their plea for help, expressing their concern about the land situation and the five-star hotel with golf course at the Vaitea ranch.

The land problem and the removal of José Miguel Ramírez from his post as head of CONAF on the island triggered an investigation headed by Deputy Guido Girardi who announced possible legal action. He stated that the National Park was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and that giving up park land without any environmental study was "lamentable and shameful." He also asserted that the action "is illegal because protected areas can only be released by a law of the Republic and not by simple decree." With respect to the removal of the park administrator, Girardi said "...it does not seem to me that a decent official should be asked to resign because he defended the National Park, and at best they should have asked the director of CONAF to resign."

El Mercurio de Valparaíso 27 December 1999

THE PROBLEM BEGAN in 1995 after the Government decided to deliver to islanders titles of ownership of land released from the Vaitea farm. The first delivery, consisting of 247 land parcels of between 4 and 5 hectares, was made last August and consisted of about 1000 hectares from the Vaitea farm and some 500 hectares from the National Park. Plans were to deliver 1500 hectares more, about 600 from Vaitea and 900 from the Park, plus 200 additional hectares for roads. However, islanders complained that the quality of the land (some of which is covered

with eucalyptus forest and some with rocks) is unsuitable for agriculture. SASIPA denies that they are keeping the best land and giving worthless parcels to the islanders; and also denies the presence of archaeological sites on the land (but no environmental study has been done).

The protests made by Ramírez resulted in his removal as the local CONAF head, "...owing to his constant opposition to such practices." Not all islanders were pleased. Many called for the defense of their archaeological patrimony and complained about the lack of an environmental impact study, as Chilean law dictates.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 5 January 2000

ON THE 10TH OF JANUARY, an action by residents of Rapa Nui was presented to the Valparaíso Court of Appeals to re-consider the delivery of lands. This was described as an "appeal of protection against those persons responsible", according to spokesperson Ines Teave, "The appeal was presented against the political system because the truth is that here there are many things that are not reasonable. We want a good system for our island, one that considers our culture, history, and our rights--as Rapanui--to our ancestral lands."

THE LAND CONTROVERSY

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN for the way that land is given out was subscribed by the island's cultural groups which participate in the native species reforestation program at the National Park, as well as by the Conservation Council of Hawai'i and botanical gardens from Europe and Oceania. The resolution was signed by Petero Riroroko, president of the local Tourism Chamber; and former governor and archaeologist Sergio Rapu. Nico Haoa Cardinali, president of the outrigger canoe club Mata Hoe Vaka Kahu Kahu Ohera, said: "They are not applying the necessary approaches for the quality of any decision for the development of the land, as is made in Hawai'i, for example. We have things to correct with urgency."

Meanwhile, the Council of Conservation of Hawai'i, the World Monuments Fund, and the Hawaiian environmental organization *Ahahui Malama i Lokahi ka*, among others, have answered the Easter Islander's resolution concerning the possible reduction of the Rapa Nui National Park, which was declared by UNESCO in 1995 as a World Heritage Site.

UNESCO has been contacted by the Rapa Nui National Park (as well as Rapanui groups on the island who oppose the incursions into the National Park lands) in hope that they may put pressure on the government to stop this action. By making this issue public, it is hoped that the National Parks land can remain safe from development and other purposes. Anyone who wishes to help can send letters to the following persons:

Mr. Cristian Palma Arancibia, Executive Director ,
CONAF. Av. Bulnes 285, Santiago de Chile.
Fax: 56 (2) 671-2007

Angel Cabeza, Coordinador
Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales,
651 Alameda, Santiago de Chile.
Fax: 56 (2) 638-1975

Don Jacobo Hey, Governor of Easter Island
Correo Hangaroa, Isla de Pascua, Chile.
Fax: 56 (32) 100-252

Pedro Pablo Edmundo Paoa, Alcalde
Correo Hangaroa, Isla de Pascua, Chile.
Fax: 56 (32) 100-339

Gabriel Aldoney, Intendente de la Vta Región
Intendencia Regional Valparaíso
Melgarejo 669, Valparaíso, Chile.
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THE SHIPPING DEBACLE

RAPA NUI JOURNAL (Vol. 13:3, p.121) readers may recall that three shipping companies have been vying for the subsidy that the government gives to one company to carry supplies to the island. One of them, *Transportes Rapa Nui*, had privately used an ex-Navy ship *Piloto Pardo* (renamed *Hotu Matu'a*) but it ran aground on the island's rocks last June. This ship had twice been used, in 1972 and 1976, to rescue the tourist ship *Lindblad Explorer* after it became stuck in the Antarctic channels. In October it was announced that it would make one last voyage to Puerto Montt and that the company would not pay US \$700,000 for repairs. Instead, the ship will be used as a pontoon or as a floating storehouse.

On the 25th of November, it was announced that the *Saint Jeremy*, one of the two ships planning to make voyages to Rapa Nui, was scheduled to leave that day. Its cargo was loaded after the renewal of its general security certificate and after the lifting of five orders of debt settlement. The cargo included road machinery to improve the road from Hangaroa to Anakena, vehicles, supplies for the island hospital, Christmas packages, and also perishables. The ship is operated by the company "Mar Express".

On the 14th of December, the *Saint Jeremy* was still tied up to the pier, unable to sail due to unpaid debts. Authorities considered unloading the cargo and putting it on another ship, but no other ship in sailing condition could be located.

By the 16th of December, the ship had eight orders of debt settlement. The cargo, including perishable items, was still on board, and no decision had been made. Understandably, the situation generated uneasiness among the owners of the merchandise who met with the regional Minister of Transport, and noted that cargo included a great number of Christmas articles and perishables.

Finally the *Saint Jeremy* was given permission to sail, with expectations to arrive before Christmas. However, the ship with its rotting perishables didn't reach Rapa Nui until a few days after the New Year. One week later, it still had not been unloaded due to the unpaid debts. It seems that on the last few trips made to the island, the ship left without paying the unloading bill. So in January, there it sat in the bay off Hangaroa. Rumors were that it might just sail back to Valparaíso, cargo intact. At last sight, on the 9th of January, a few small boats were going out to the ship to begin unloading.

On the 9th of February, back in Valparaíso, the *St. Jeremy* had 20 civil and criminal cases against it. Complaints included missing cargo, and both ship and personnel were under 24 hour

surveillance. Before the change-over in government when the new president takes over, the situation of supply voyages to the island "should be solved". A US \$400,000 subsidy has been set aside for this purpose, but it is not clear if any ship will meet the established requirements: it must be under Chilean flag and the only ship capable of carrying cargo is not yet registered.

CHILEAN RED CROSS ON EASTER ISLAND

ON JANUARY 12TH THE CHILEAN RED CROSS inaugurated a branch of that organization on Rapa Nui. Their work will focus on senior citizens and the prevention of drug use among the younger people.

RAPA NUI ROAD IMPROVEMENT

ABOUT US\$900,000 WAS PROVIDED by the Regional Government of Valparaíso and the Home Ministry for repairs to island roads. Under consideration are: Araroa Rakei, Rongo Rongo, Policarpo and Avareipua, among others. There is little doubt that the paving of village roads has cut down on dust in the summer and torrential run-off during the winter. The unpaved roads, a source of clouds of red dust raised by speeding taxicabs, often have small boulders rolled across them to slow down traffic. We were unable to locate any statistics on the number of accidents caused by these ad hoc speed bumps.

THE PIER FOR RAPA NUI

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, Jaime Toha, visited Rapa Nui and stated that to build the pier at La Pérouse Bay would affect the archaeological heritage of the island. The La Pérouse project, with a cost of around US \$3.5 million, was proposed in 1998 but since the beginning, islanders have opposed it because of the potential damage to the archaeological sites of that area.

The construction of a pier is an old project which, in 1984, was planned for the bay at Papa Haoa with a cost of US \$50 million, but the earthquake of 1985 in Valparaíso absorbed all the funds. The Ministry stated they would restudy the project in Hanga Piko Bay, which would cost around US \$11.6 million. The problem is that the ocean floor drops off suddenly a few meters from the coast and a deep foundation would be needed.

ANOTHER LAND SQUABBLE was noted in mainland newspapers when action was taken by a Chilean, Sergio Rojas Bozzo, who began to build a house on land he had rented for five years. According to his attorney, he was pressured by members of the Consejo de Ancianos #2 who stated that fraud was committed because the land was sold. Consejo members, Jorge Pont, Matias Riroroko and Benito Rapahango stopped work on the house by threatening the contractor. The lawyer also stated that an incendiary bomb had been thrown into one of the commercial buildings owned by his client. This is under investigation.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 4 February 2000

A GROUP OF ISLANDERS ON RAPA NUI is pushing to require a visa for those who come from the continent to live on the island. Because of the climate and easy living, many "undesirables" from mainland Chile have come to the island to live. Some have police records and few have any job skills to add to the community.